



A BAYOU LEGEND

"A Bayou Legend's" composer William Grant Still, who was born on a plantation near Woodville, Mississippi, in 1895, is referred to by many today as "the dean of American black composers." During his career, he wrote seven operas, eight symphonies and a number of other works including ballets, chamber music and orchestral and choral compositions. He collaborated with his wife, Verna Arvey, pictured here, on many projects including the three-act opera "A Bayou Legend," for which she wrote the libretto. "A Bayou Legend" has been produced for the Public Broadcasting Service by the Mississippi Center for Educational Television and Opera/South. It can be seen at _____.

"A Bayou Legend" was written in 1941 but did not receive its premiere until 1974 when Opera/South staged it in Jackson, Mississippi. The PBS presentation of "A Bayou Legend" marks its television debut and features the first all-black cast assembled for a television opera presentation.